

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pressure-assisted breathing system comprising:
a pressure-generating circuit for maintaining a positive pressure within the
system;
a patient interface device **adapted to be** coupled to a patient's respiratory system;
a respiratory circuit providing gas communication between the pressure-
generating circuit and the patient interface device; and
a nebulizer coupled to the respiratory circuit.
2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the
pressure-generating circuit comprises a conduit that couples a flow generator with a pressure-
regulating device **and the respiratory circuit is connected to the conduit at location between
the flow generator and the pressure-regulating device.**
3. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the pressure-generating
circuit comprises a first flexible tube and the respiratory circuit comprises a second flexible tube,
and wherein the second flexible tube has a smaller diameter than the first flexible tube.
4. (Original) A system according to claim 3 wherein the second flexible tube
is a silicone tube having an outside diameter of 5 mm or less.
5. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the nebulizer comprises
a reservoir for holding a liquid medicament to be delivered to the patient's respiratory system, a
vibrating aperture-type aerosol generator for aerosolizing the liquid medicament and a connector
for connecting the nebulizer to the respiratory circuit so as to entrain the aerosolized medicament
from the aerosol generator into the gas flowing through the respiratory circuit.
6. (Original) A system according to claim 5 wherein the reservoir has a
capacity equal to one unit dose of medicament.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6 wherein the reservoir has a capacity of 4 ml or less.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 5 wherein the nebulizer has a net weight of 5 gms or less.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 8 wherein the nebulizer produces 5 decibels or less of sound pressure.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 5 wherein the aerosol generator has a weight of about 1 gm.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the nebulizer is located in the direct vicinity of the patient's nose, mouth or artificial airway.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11 wherein the respiratory circuit comprises a gas conduit contained within the patient interface device and the nebulizer is **an integral part integrated** with the patient interface device.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the patient interface device comprises nasal prongs, a mask, nasopharyngeal prongs, a nasopharyngeal tube, a tracheotomy tube or an endotracheal tube.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for the delivery of an aerosolized medicament to a patient comprising:

a first gas conduit connecting a gas flow generator to a pressure-regulating device to provide a first high-volume gas flow for generating a continuous positive airway pressure;

a junction unit disposed in the first gas conduit between the flow generator and the pressure-regulating device, wherein the junction unit comprises a primary gas conduit to accommodate said first gas flow and a branch gas conduit that depends from and is in gas communication with the primary gas conduit;

a patient interface device **adapted to be** coupled to a patient's respiratory system;

a second gas conduit **connected to the branch gas conduit of the junction unit and connecting the first gas conduit** to the patient interface device, **whereby a portion of the first gas flow is diverted into said second gas conduit through the branch gas conduit,**

thereby ~~for~~ providing a second gas flow to the patient's respiratory system that is lower volume than the first gas flow; and

a nebulizer coupled to the second gas conduit **so as to emit** ~~for emitting~~ an aerosolized medicament into the second gas flow.

15. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the second gas conduit has an outside diameter less than the first gas conduit.

16. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the second gas conduit is a flexible silicone tube having an outside diameter less than 5 mm.

17. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the nebulizer has a net weight less than 5 gm and produces less than 5 decibels of sound pressure.

18. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the nebulizer comprises a reservoir having a capacity equal to one unit dose of medicament.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method of respiratory therapy comprising the steps of:

providing a pressure-assisted breathing system having a pressure-generating circuit and a respiratory circuit **adapted to be** coupled to a patient interface device, the pressure-generating circuit having a higher volume flow of gas than the respiratory circuit;

coupling the patient interface device to the patient's respiratory system; and
introducing an aerosolized medicament only into the **lower volume** flow of gas in the respiratory circuit to deliver the medicament to the patient's respiratory system.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20 wherein the aerosolized medicament is introduced by a vibrating aperture-type nebulizer coupled to the respiratory circuit.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the nebulizer comprises a reservoir having a capacity equal to one unit dose of medicament and substantially all of the contents of the reservoir is delivered to the patient's respiratory system without the need to replenish the reservoir.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22 wherein the dose is 4 ml or less of medicament.

24. (Original) A method of delivering a surfactant medicament to a patient's respiratory system which comprises the steps of:

providing a pressure-assisted breathing system having a pressure-generating circuit, a respiratory circuit coupled to a patient interface device and a vibrating aperture-type nebulizer coupled to the respiratory circuit;

introducing a liquid surfactant into the nebulizer;

aerosolizing the surfactant in the nebulizer ; and

entraining the aerosolized surfactant into the respiratory circuit, whereby the patient breathes the aerosolized surfactant through the patient interface device.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the surfactant is a phospholipid.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein 6-18% of the aerosolized surfactant is delivered to the patient.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein one unit dose of medicament is introduced into the nebulizer and the entire dose is delivered to the patient.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the dose is equal to 10 mg or less of surfactant.